



## **Committee Members**

Bob Archey, Vice- Chair  
Pete Kmet • Carl Weimer • Shirley Olson  
Bill Rickard • Art Coulombe • VaNessa Duplessie  
Ron Schmitt • Duane Henderson • Grant Jensen  
George Hills • Dave Knoelke



### **Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Washington State Utilities & Transportation Commission, Room 206

1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, Olympia, WA 98504

April 17, 2009

#### **Present members:**

Bob Archey, Vice Chair  
Carl Weimer  
George Hills  
Bill Rickard  
Duane Henderson  
Dave Knoelke  
Grant Jensen  
VaNessa Duplessie  
Art Coulombe  
Ron Schmitt

#### **Absent members:**

Shirley Olson  
Pete Kmet

#### **Other attendees:**

Anne F. Soiza, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Jim Fernald, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Marina Woodard, UTC Pipeline Safety Program  
Dan McDonald, Dept. of Ecology  
Rick Kuprewicz  
Gary Scott, Lewis County Public Works  
Bruce Paskett, Northwest Natural  
Dick Goldsmith, Pipeline Trust  
Brad Tower, Olympic Pipe Line

#### **Agenda Items:**

##### **1. Welcome**

##### **Introduction of Members and Visitors (emphasis on new member orientation to Committee)**

The meeting was brought to order by Anne Soiza who welcomed all attendees. All members and meeting attendees introduced themselves. This is the first meeting for three new Governor appointees:

- Art Coulombe – citizen representative from Walla Walla, retired civil engineer.
- VaNessa Duplessie – citizen representative from Ridgefield, WA.
- Ron Schmitt – citizen representative from Tacoma, fire fighter and paramedic with Snohomish County Fire District #1.

Anne presented Certificates of Appreciation to Rick Kuprewicz and George Hills for their time and dedicated service to the committee.

### Election

Because of Rick Kuprewicz leaving the committee while he was chair, Bob Archey will assume the chair role according to Bylaws. He proposed Carl Weimer to serve as vice-chair until a newly elected vice-chair takes office in July 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

### Adoption of December 4, 2008 Meeting and March 3, 2009 Special Meeting Minutes

In a unanimous vote, the committee adopted the December 4, 2008 meeting minutes as drafted. The March 3, 2009 meeting minutes is proposed to be amended as follows:

- Carl's name was misspelled.
- Bill Rickard was present via conference call.

Motion passed unanimously.

### Quick Update on 12/4/2008 Action Task List Status

Bob Archey briefly summarized the document that was distributed to all members. (*This document is posted on the committee's website at [www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops/workpapers&presentation](http://www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops/workpapers&presentation)*).

## 2. **Transco Appomattox Pipeline Rupture and Fire of 9/14/08 and Anomaly Evaluation**

This item (item 7 in the published agenda) was moved to item 2 to accommodate Rick's schedule. Rick provided a slide presentation of the rupture episode and a powerpoint presentation entitled Gas Transmission Pipeline Potential Impact Zones (PIZs) and Corrosion Anomalies. (*The materials for this presentation are posted on the committee's website at [www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops/workpapers&presentation](http://www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops/workpapers&presentation)*).

Rick raised several issues:

- Should the committee write an advisory letter to PHMSA requesting more corrosion information be made available to the public? This information may also include threshold determinations on corrosion and re-inspection intervals.
- Secondly, if information is to be made available, it must be in format the public can understand.
- Should PHMSA reconsider requirements for pipeline re-evaluation as a result of corrosion wall loss?

Bob Archey proposed to table this discussion until the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Anne will research the status of PHMSA's consideration of the corrosion/wall thickness issue.

## 3. **Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) Status-Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Update and PIPA Discussion Including Consultation Zone Status**

Carl briefed the committee on the background of PIPA and the final report from this PHMSA effort. He explained that much of the basis of PIPA began in Washington State around land use adjacent to transmission pipelines. UTC will email link to the land use report to the committee. Carl further explained two major concepts coming out of PIPA; consultation and planning zones.

The TAG update will be discussed under item 10, 2009 work plan.

4. **Legislature Update**

Anne reported on the status of the SHB 1996 which proposed to amend the one-call law (RCW 19.122). This legislation was proposed by the Utility Contractors Association of Washington (UCAW). The bill was not supported by all stakeholders and its outcome is uncertain. Regardless of this bill's success, Anne has promised to put a work group together of all stakeholders to see if consensus can be reached on amendments for the 2010 session. The first meeting of this work group is scheduled for June 2009. Anne also offered to give the committee a presentation on the UTC's damage prevention effort at the May meeting.

5. **Public Comments**

Carl Weimer gave an update on the Pipeline Safety Trust activity. This year is the tenth anniversary of the Bellingham explosion and some ceremony is planned to remember the tragedy.

6. **UTC Update**

Anne Soiza provided an overview of recent events that have impacted the pipeline safety section.

- **City of Enumclaw Enforcement Action** – A complaint was filed against the City of Enumclaw for numerous violations of pipeline safety regulations. Staff is preparing for a settlement conference with the city in an attempt to reach a negotiated agreement. Failure to reach an agreement will require an enforcement hearing by the commission. The committee will be notified once this matter is resolved.
- **UTC Pipeline Program Audit** – PHMSA will conduct their annual audit of Pipeline Safety Program on the week of April 20, 2009. The score on the audit has a direct impact on the amount of funding the program will receive from PHMSA.
- **PHMSA Budget** – Congress has approved the operating budget for PHMSA. The new budget has additional funding for support of state pipeline safety programs. Under previous federal law, funding of state program was limited to 50%, but in reality, funding received was 42%. With this new funding, we hopefully will be getting more federal support which could result in lower fees for the pipeline operators.
- **Lunch** – Per state requirements, the UTC will no longer be able to cater lunch for members when the meeting is held at the commission. Working lunch will be provided when meeting are held at other facilities.
- **Virtual DIRT Committee** – The UTC has purchased a license for use of a Virtual DIRT portal. This software is designed to collect data related to damage of underground utilities. Alan Lundeen is working with a committee to determine how to best implement this software that will give the best data for the least effort.
- **One-Call Law Committee June Meeting** – Bob Archey asked if any of the committee members are interested in serving as a liaison to this committee which is working on potential amendments to the one-call law. Ron Schmitt volunteered.
- **Committee's position** – The following positions are now or will be vacant by July 31, 2009.
  - Position currently held by Ron Schmitt.
  - Position previously held by Bob Bandarra.
  - Position currently held by Duane Henderson.
  - Position currently held by Shirley Olson.
  - Position previously held by George Hills.

- Position currently held by Bill Rickard.
- Position currently held by Pete Kmet.

Anne explained that the Governor is currently limiting membership to two consecutive terms. Ron Schmitt asked if he has to reapply after only serving four months. Marina will research the issue and respond to Ron with the answer.

7. **Proposed Changes to Committee By-laws**

The draft By-laws were distributed to the members for review. *(This document is posted on the committee's website at [www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops/workpapers &presentation](http://www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops/workpapers&presentation)).*

Concern was expressed by members about proposed limitation on internal communication due to the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act. Anne will seek clarification from the Assistant Attorney General representing the UTC.

Based on the discussion, Bob will amend the proposal and distribute to members for action at the May meeting.

8. **Review, Discussion and Acceptance of Committee 2009 Work Plan**

Bob Archey distributed the 2009 draft work plan. *(This document is posted on the committee's website at [www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops/workpapers &presentation](http://www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops/workpapers&presentation)).* Ron moved the 2009 draft work plan be adopted. Grant seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

9. **Public Comment**

No comments from the public.

10. **Future Meeting Locations and Agendas – Other Business**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2009 at the WA State Investment Board, Olympia, WA.
- Bob asked members to volunteer to represent the committee at the June 10 anniversary of the Bellingham explosion.
- List serve mailing list – Bob Archey expressed concern that he had not received any list serve notices lately. Marina will confirm whether his email address on the list serve is accurate.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.